

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03265 200822Z
ACTION NODS-00

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-----097058 200827Z /11
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0589

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3265

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV KS US
SUBJ: ROK DIALOGUE WITH CONGRESS ON ACCESS TO KIM DONG-JO

REF: A. STATE 101013, B. SEOUL 3101

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL A, I IMMEDIATELY GOT IN TOUCH WITH FONMIN PARK. FONMIN REAFFIRMED THAT AMBASSADOR KIM'S INSTRUCTIONS WERE ESSENTIALLY AS SET FORTH REFTEL B.

2. FONMIN EXPLAINED THAT DUE TO MAJOR OBJECTIONS RAISED IN LAST WEEK'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSIONS REGARDING KIM HAVING ANY REPEAT ANY CONTACT WITH JAWORSKI, KIM HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO GO TO JAWORSKI'S OFFICE. SAME INSTRUCTIONS APPARENTLY APPLY TO SENATOR STEVENSON. HOWEVER, AFTER I EXPLAINED SITUATION AS SET FORTH REFTEL A TO FONMIN, FONMIN SAID THAT KIM IS AUTHORIZED TO SEE JAWORSKI AS WELL AS STEVENSON IF MEETINGS ARE ARRANGED THROUGH STATE AND PREFERABLY AT STATE DEPARTMENT. IDEAL SOLUTION FROM ROKG VIEWPOINT WOULD BE FOR STATE DEPARTMENT TO ARRANGE MEETING IN ITS BUILDING AS WAS DONE IN CASE OF WHITE. IN THIS CASE, ROKG COULD EXPLAIN PUBLICLY THAT KIM DID NOT SEEK OUT CONGRESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS BUT ACCEDED TO ARRANGEMENTS
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MADE BY STATE DEPARTMENT, SAVING FACE ALL AROUND.

2. FONMIN REAFFIRMED THAT KIM IS AUTHORIZED TO SEE JAWORSKI AND STEVENSON UNDER THESE CONDITIONS WITH MEETINGS ALSO POSSIBLE ON NEUTRAL GROUND IF STATE DEPARTMENT MEETING NOT FEASIBLE. I URGED HIM TO REITERATE THESE INSTRUCTIONS TO AMBASSADOR KIM IN CASE THERE IS ANY MISUNDERSTANDING.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO PARA 5, REF A, I DO NOT HAVE ANY SENSE THAT KOREANS ARE PLAYING GAME IN HOPE US WILL CHANGE OR AMEND ITS TROOP WITHDRAWAL PLAN. I THINK THERE IS FULL RECOGNITION OF PROBLEMS FACED IN CONGRESS, BUT KOREANS ARE NOT PREPARED TO APPEAR TO ACCEDE PUBLICLY TO CONGRESSIONAL THREATS OF AID CUT-OFF. FURTHERMORE, SINCE AMBASSADOR KIM DEPARTED PORTER STATEMENT HAS INJECTED ENTIRELY NEW ELEMENT INTO KOREAN POSITION, ADDING NEW SENSITIVITY TO APPEARANCE OF "BOWING" TO CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE AND LESS FLEXIBILITY FOR AMBASSADOR KIM IN TACTICS OF DEALING WITH KIM DONG-JO PROBLEM. SPEAKER CHUNG IL KWON CONFIRMED TO ME THIS MORNING EXTENT OF GENUINE SENSITIVITY THROUGHOUT ASSEMBLY AS WELL AS IN MUCH BROADER PUBLIC ATTITUDES. SYMPTOMATIC, INCIDENTALLY, OF THIS ATMOSPHERE IS ALMOST INSTANTANEOUS FLARE-UP OVER PING PONG DIPLOMACY ISSUE.

4. I HAVE ARRANGED TO PASS TO KCIA SAME MESSAGE AS GIVEN TO FONMIN.
SNEIDER

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